

## Utah State Quarantined Fruit Pests

Without control, damaging insects could cripple Utah's billion dollar a year agricultural industry. The success of Utah's fruit production industry depends upon effective control of fruit pests by producers and government agencies.

The Emergency Insect Program was initiated in 1985 with the enactment of the Insect Infestation Emergency Control Act (Chapter 35, Utah Code). The current insect programs, administered by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), are intended to protect the state from public nuisance and agricultural pest infestations.

Several Western states, including California and Arizona have quarantines against specific fruit pests that restrict the export of fruit products from Utah. Currently, Utah fruit growers are affected by quarantines on the following fruit pests:

- , Apple Maggot
- , Cherry Fruit Fly
- , Plum Curculio

There are also quarantines that affect other agricultural and domestic products. These quarantines control the following pests:

- , Gypsy Moth
- , Japanese Beetle

## Quarantines

In order for a fruit grower to export fruit to a state or foreign country with an insect quarantine, he or she must be in compliance with that quarantine. Quarantine rules differ by state or country, and are determined by the insect of concern. The quarantine may be as simple as having the state or country verify the fruit was grown in a noninfested area, or may require an inspection, treatment, or phytosanitary certification.

## Insect Programs

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is helping growers in the state to contain agricultural and public nuisance pests by:

1. Insect trapping and detection program: In 1999 approximately 1,000 insect traps will be placed in fruit growing areas in Utah County and Box Elder County. This trapping network allows the state to identify insect problems and act quickly to suppress damaging insect populations.
2. Fruit tree survey program: An extensive mapping program, identifying commercial, private, and abandoned orchards, is nearing completion. The tree survey provides invaluable data to determine long term trends in fruit production and fruit insect infestations.
3. Public information program: A cooperative program with Utah State University Extension Service provides information to homeowners and fruit growers on controlling fruit pests.
4. Research Program: A cooperative program with Utah State University studies the biology of fruit pests. Results from the studies provides fruit producers with best management practices (BMPs) to control fruit pests.

## Program Results

The UDAF Insect Programs and other cooperative programs administered through the Fruit Insect Infestation Decision and Action Committee promotes the effective control of fruit pests statewide, while emphasizing the safe use of pesticides and other control measures. This helps to insure environmental quality, fruit quality, wholesomeness, and a safe food supply.

The UDAF Insect Programs provides fruit growers with access to markets that would normally be closed to them due to quarantines. Currently commercial orchards in Utah can export their fruit without restrictions, with the exception of orchards from Box Elder County.

## Program Costs

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Insect Programs are paid with state funds and fees paid by fruit growers. In 1998, the expenses for fruit insect survey and detection were:

**State Funds \$36,168**  
**Grower Fees \$4,200**

In addition, agencies cooperating in the Gypsy Moth Decision and Action Committee cooperatively spent \$146,120 in 1998 to eradicate a potential Gypsy Moth population in Salt Lake County and conduct a large scale trapping program along the Wasatch Front.

### Plum Curculio Fact

Plum Curculio is a Native American insect, widely distributed East of the Rocky Mountains. Plum Curculio attacks and damages plums, apples, pear, and other stone fruits. Fruit is damaged by both adults and larvae. Plum Curculio has one generation per year.

## More on Box Elder County

Box Elder county is currently being affected by a Plum Curculio quarantine, which has resulted in export restrictions on all fresh fruit. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and Utah State University are working with homeowners and fruit growers to solve the problems associated with Plum Curculio and other pests, such as Cherry Fruit Fly and Apple Maggot. The current efforts in Box Elder County include a public information campaign, insect trapping and surveying, and a tree removal program.

In early April 1999, 10,500 information pamphlets on Plum Curculio were distributed in Box Elder County as an insert in the Box Elder News Journal. The pamphlet discusses the importance of detecting Plum Curculio and the importance of effective treatment. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has also sent letters to many homeowners and fruit growers reminding them to spray for Plum Curculio this spring.

In 1998, 70 insect traps were placed in Box Elder County to detect fruit pests and survey existing populations of insects. The number of traps will increase in 1999. Utah State University will conduct an expanded insect detection and survey program this summer in Box Elder County.

The most effective control of fruit pests is the removal of neglected or unsprayed trees from infested areas. Recently 550 cherry trees in a Plum Curculio infested area were voluntarily removed by producers in Box Elder County. Producers have also voluntarily removed 1,277 apple and cherry trees from areas infested with Cherry Fruit Fly.

**The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and the Fruit Insect Ad Hoc Committee welcomes your questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding fruit pests and fruit pest quarantines.**

### Program Contacts

**Ed Bianco, State Entomologist**

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
350 North Redwood Road, PO Box 146500  
Salt Lake City, UT 4114-6500  
Telephone: (801) 5387184  
Fax: (801) 538-7189

**Michael Willardson,  
Box Elder County Representative**

Box Elder County Courthouse  
Brigham City, UT 84302  
Telephone: (435) 734-3328  
Fax: (435) 734-2038

**Donald Day, Utah County Representative**

Old Courthouse Ste 304  
51 S University  
Provo, UT 84601  
Telephone: (801) 370-8494  
Fax: (801) 370-8496

**Kenyon Farley  
Chairman, Fruit Insect  
Decision and Action Committee**

200 East 549 North  
Santaquin, UT 84655  
Telephone: (801) 754-5605

# Utah Quarantined Fruit Pests



**Plum Curculio**